'Empire Building' Charged in

By Irna Moore
Washington Post Staff Writer

The chairman of a Senate Public Works Subcommittee, expressing concern about "empire building" and rivalry between the FBI and Secret Service, decided yesterday to take a closer look at a proposal to build a $52.6 million federal law enforcement training center in Beltsville, Md.

Why does the Treasury Department need the Beltsville facility for Secret Service and other federal agents when the FBI has a new $23 million training academy in Quantico, Va., Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) wanted to know.

When Treasury officials replied that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had flatly stated two years ago that he had no room at Quantico, Gravel said:

"I'm not prepared to fall for what the director says. He'd prefer to be alone there and have his empire. But I'm concerned about the nation's need. We can afford one big facility, but not two big ones."

The FBI, Gravel said later, "obviously feels a real territorial imperative." There are clearly "some rivalries" between the two federal agencies, he said, "but maybe the best way to overcome them is to try to develop one educational institution that will service all federal law enforcement."

Gravel's subcommittee on public buildings and grounds is being asked to approve plans for the training center on 491 acres adjoining the Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville. Congress in 1969 approved an earlier propos-

THE WASHINGTON POST Friday July 16, 1971 A15

Federal Agent Center Plans

al for an $18 million academy on the site to train agents of the Secret Service, White House, Customs Bureau, Internal Revenue Service, Postal Service and Park Police.

The Secret Service has already built a firing range and combat practice field there, and the Treasury Department is building a $6 million special training building on the site.

Assistant Treasury Secretary Eugene T. Rossides testified that the FBI has less than half of the estimated 15,000 federal law enforcement agents. He said that just as there is a need for more than one federal law enforcement agency, there is a need for more than one training facility.

Gravel scheduled another hearing for next week, and said he would ask the FBI to explain what facilities they have at Quantico and how much land is available there.

An FBI spokesman yesterday referred to Hoover's 1969 statement. Hoover said then that a training academy "must be controlled administratively as a single entity" and that it would not be practical to include Secret Service training at the new FBI academy.

"It doesn't look to me like anyone did any figuring at all," said Sen. B. Everett Jordan (D-N.C.). He noted that the increase in the cost of building dormitories and classrooms had gone up $16 million.

"It looks to me like you're designing some very elaborate quarters," Jordan added. He said he will ask to have the dormitory and classroom plans revamped.